

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 INR-07 L-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SP-02 EUR-08 SAM-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 /050 W

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O R 290710Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0800

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8058

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, AF, PFOR, PK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DAOUD/BHUTTO MEETING

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH DECEMBER 28 TOLD US THAT THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT (GOP) HAS APPROACHED THE AFGHANS (GOA) AND SUGGESTED A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT DAOUD AND PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO DISCUSS "THEIR PROBLEMS." APPROACH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN KABUL BY NEW GOP AMBASSADOR TO KABUL ALI ARSHAD. MENTION OF POSSIBLE MEETING WHICH ABDULLAH DESCRIBED AS "TOP SECRET MATTER" CAME DURING DISCUSSION OF NAIM VISIT TO PEKING WHICH SEEMS CONFIRM RUMORS WE HAVE HEARD THAT CHINESE HAVE ENCOURAGED BOTH GOA AND GOP TO GET TOGETHER WITHOUT OUTSIDE (READ USSR) INVOLVEMENT.

2. ABDULLAH SAID GOA "VERY NERVOUS" ABOUT THIS MEETING SINCE "BHUTTO IS SUCH A SLIPPERY CHARACTER."

3. ABDULLAH WAS ADVISED THAT FROM US EMBASSY PRESPECTIVE
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POSSIBLE MEETING SEEMED TO BE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY AND THAT WE

WERE SURE WASHINGTON WOULD WELCOME A BILATERAL DIALOGUE
DESIGNED TO AIR GOA/GOP DIFFERENCES AND BEGIN RESOLVING THEM.

4. IT WAS MENTIONED TO ABDULLAH THAT ON-GOING WAR OF WORDS
BETWEEN KABUL AND ISLAMABAD WOULDN'T CONTRIBUTE TO THE BEST
TYPE OF ATMOSPHERE FOR A DAOUD/BHUTTO MEETING. ABDULLAH SAID
HE COORDINATES SUBSTANCE OF OUTPUT DIRECTED TO PAKISTAN AND
TRIES TO KEEP LEVEL OF INVECTIVE DOWN, BUT "THEY ARE ALWAYS
MAKING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON OUR PRESIDENT" THUS HE EXPLAINED A
RECENT PERSONAL ATTACK ON MR. BHUTTO, THE TEXT OF WHICH WAS
BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION.

5. COMMENT: WAHEED ABDULLAH SEEMED TO WANT TO BE SURE THAT
USG AWARE OF POSSIBLE MEETING AND GOA (ABDULLAH'S) CONCERN
ABOUT DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH GOP PRIME MINISTER. DOUBT-
LESS HE WANTS HIS OWN VIEWS ON PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO
HAVE A REGULAR AIRING IN WASHINGTON AND ISLAMABAD. WE HOPE,
BUT ARE NOT CONFIDENT, THAT THERE WILL BE SOME PRELIMINARY
MEETINGS TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR ANY POSSIBLE "SUMMIT." IN ORDER
TO MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE US DETACHMENT FROM ANY PAK/AFGHAN
SUMMITRY, ABDULLAH WAS NOT OFFERED ANY US ADVICE ON HOW TO
PREPARE FOR A HEADS-OF-STATE MEETING.
ELIOT

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